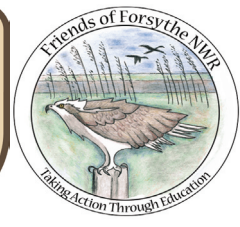


# FORSYTHE EXPLORER



## July - September 2013

### ONGOING ACTIVITIES

#### *Bird & Nature Walks*

##### **Every Friday**

**8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.**

Join Park Ranger and expert birder Don Freiday for a leisurely 2 hour, approximately one-mile walk to look for and learn about the Refuge's birds, other wildlife, plants and habitats. Suitable for all experience levels. Loaner binoculars are available. No pre-registration needed. Meet in front of the new Visitor Center.

#### *Stay Focused Photo Club*

**Saturdays, June 8, July 13 and August 10**

**9:30 a.m.**

The Refuge's nature photography group is open to anyone who enjoys photography. Come check us out! Meet in the H.Q. Building.

#### *Evenings at Forsythe:*

##### **"Wings of Life" Movie Night**

**Friday, June 21st**

**7:00 p.m.**

Movie Night

This Disney nature film is a stunning celebration of life, showcasing the unsung heroes of our planet - butterflies, hummingbirds, bees and bats. Meet in the H.Q. Building.

#### *Nature Photo Contest for ages 7 to 18 - Enter to win prizes!*

**Entries accepted between May 1 and July 1, 2013**

Contest info and entry form can be found at [www.stayfocusedphotoclub.org/competitions/youth.htm](http://www.stayfocusedphotoclub.org/competitions/youth.htm)

#### *1st Day of Duck Stamp Sales*

**Saturday, June 29th**

### JULY

#### *Evenings at Forsythe*

##### **An Evening of Moth Watching**

**Friday, July 19th 7:00 p.m.**

Rain date: July 26

### AUGUST

#### *Evenings at Forsythe*

**Friday, August 16th**

**7:00 p.m.**

TBA

### HOLGATE WILDERNESS AREA PROGRAMS:

**Meet at the Holgate bulkhead at the end of Long Beach Island.** All Holgate guided beach walks are 1 hour long and cover approximately 1-1.5 miles of distance (round trip.). Be prepared for minimum to moderate hiking. Wear appropriate clothing (comfortable shoes/boots, hat, and dress to get a little dirty), bring own water, insect repellent, sunscreen, etc.

#### *Shorebird Tour*

**Wednesdays & Saturdays 10-11am through September 1.**

Can you tell the Herring Gull from the Laughing Gull? Do you confuse the Piping Plover for the Sanderling? Join us for a 1 hour, ½ mile walk that will help you identify many of the common migratory shorebirds. Learn how the Refuge protects endangered

species and what you can do to help. Binoculars and pamphlets are provided.



#### *Ever-Shifting Sands*

**Thursdays 10-11am through September 1.**

While you enjoy a relaxing day at the beach, the tiny grains of sand that find their way into every crack and crevice lead busy lives directed by raging storms, pounding waves, and whipping winds. All ages are welcome on this 1 hour, ½ mile walk following the sand as it builds sandbars or dunes, slips between rocks on a jetty or supports a bird's nest. The beaches of LBI are always changing. What do you think it might look like in the future?

#### *Wilderness Walk*

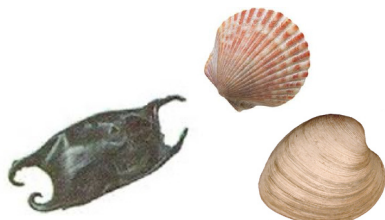
**Fridays 10-11am through September 1.**

Wilderness can include desolate mountain ranges, an endless expanse of canyons and deserts, and the Holgate beach! Yes, welcome to one of New Jersey's two Wilderness Areas, a beach where humans are only visitors. Come learn about the purpose of wilderness across the nation and the special function of the Holgate Unit. Join us on this 1 hour, ½ mile mind-expanding walk. All ages welcome. You might just leave with a new appreciation of this unassuming beach.

## Beachcombing

Sundays 10-11am through  
September 1.

What was that seashell when it was alive? Learn about the shells, egg cases and other objects that wash ashore with the tides as well as the historical purpose of beachcombing. All ages are welcome to join us for a 1 hour, 1/2 mile leisurely walk along the Coast. You'll leave knowing the names of common shells as well as tidbits about the creatures that they used to belong to.



## COMING SOON!



Ride around the Wildlife Drive in the new Forsythe Explorer! as our volunteer naturalists point out and identify birds and animals. Learn about the importance of the National Wildlife Refuge System and why Forsythe Refuge is important to both humans and wildlife.



Schedule to be announced. Reservations will be required due to limited seating. Bring your binoculars or ask for our loaner ones. Tour time is approximately 2 hours. Donation of \$10 per adult for maintenance.

All activities are free and open to the public unless otherwise noted.

Remember to be prepared for moderate hiking. Wear appropriate clothing (comfortable shoes/boots, hat, and dress to get a little dirty), bring your own water, insect repellent, sunscreen, etc.

### Visitor Center Hours:

Weekdays 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.,

Weekends 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Edwin B. Forsythe

National Wildlife Refuge

PO Box 72, 800 Great Creek Rd.

Oceanville, NJ 08231

(609) 652-1665

<http://www.fws/northeast/forsythe>

**What to Watch For:** In **July**, shorebirds are breeding and raising young; Dragonflies are laying eggs in fresh water wetland; and fiddler crabs are swarming across the salt marsh mud flats at low tide. Listen for the night-time chorus of grasshoppers, crickets, and katydids. During **August**, marsh mallow blooms appear in the marsh, and migrating shorebirds feast on small mud-dwelling creatures along the refuge mud flats, readying for their long flight to South America. Tree swallows begin to congregate prior to migration. Plants are setting seed and fruiting. **September** means fall flowers blooming in the salt marsh. Young animals are learning how and where to find food. Golden-rod is in full bloom and monarch butterflies are migrating through the area. Look for ducks stopping to rest and feed in Refuge wetlands as they migrate south. Biting insects are abundant in Summer. Remember: bugs are a sign of a healthy environment!

All activities are free and open to the public unless otherwise noted.

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